# MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM

NR Eligible:	yes	
	no	

operty Name: Brick Hill/Brick Hill Tenant House	Inventory Number: CE642/CE6	68
Address: 8 Brick Hill Road and 31 Brick Hill Road	Historic district: yes	ζ no
City: Elkton Zip Code: 21921	County: Cecil	
USGS Quadrangle(s): Bay View		
Property Owner: John Carter III and Peter Tupitza	Tax Account ID Number: 04-02996	8, 04-02
Tax Map Parcel Number(s): 61 Tax Map Number	er:6	
Project: MD 213: MD 273 to PA State Line Agency	: MD SHA	
Agency Prepared By: MD SHA		
Preparer's Name: Rita Suffness	Date Prepared: 03/04/2004	
Documentation is presented in: SHA Project Files for CE304A21: MIHP Adden	hum form (February/March, 2004)	
Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: Eligibility recommended	Eligibility not recom	mended
Criteria: A B X C D Considerations: A B	CDEF	G
Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource	to a NR district/property:	
Name of the District/Property:		
Inventory Number: Eligible:yes	Listed: yes	
visit by MHT Staff yesX no Name:	Date:	
Description of Property and Justification: (Please attatch map and photo)  The Brick Hill House, plus its tenant house (CE-668), are recommended eligible for National Register Criterion C, despite the deteriorated state of the property overall, dwelling that likely dates its remodeling to the late nineteenth century. Local source earlier Georgian-period residence, to which alterations were likely made during the property from 1873 to 1884, likely updating its appearance with a more contemport stylistic flourishes, befitting his status as a well-to-do farmer in the area. Other resinortheastern Cecil County, but the Brick Hill House's Victorian character makes it impressive and prominent residences. It is also adjacent to the section of MD 213, to outbreak of the Civil War, was incorporated and re-built as the Elkton, Andorra and though it has lost integrity because of modifications to its appearance, contributes to The Brick Hill Tenant House, from ca. 1900, is a side-gable, four bay wide, two-st and located on the north side of Brick Hill Road. This had been the location of a to siding, supported on the stone foundation, and has a standing seam metal roof. The	The residence is an impressive Victor es suggest that the structure originated ownership of John Hall. Hall owned that Victorian appearance, with Queen Adences of the same construction period stand out within the area as one of the which, during a brief period just before a Lewisville Plank Road. The tenant has the other significance of this historic site.	ian as an he Anne exist in more the ouse, e south, h vinyl
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW		
Eligibility recommended Eligibility not recommended		
Criteria: A B X C D Considerations: A	B _C _D _E _F	G
MHT Comments:		
Jan Janlusur 1	5/26/04	
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services	Date	
Sant 5/	27/04	
Reviewer, National Register Program	Date	1

#### NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

### CE642/CE668

#### Brick Hill/Brick Hill Tenant House

Page 2

six sash predominating. A shed-roofed ell, built into the west end of the north elevation, forms a continuous line with the plane of ne west gable-end elevation. The dwelling originally had two entrances on the south, or entrance façade, but the westernmost one has been eliminated. The existing entrance, with a replacement door, is sheltered by an open, shed roof porch, carried on lathe turned posts. A small board and batten barn, located directly behind the house, has had numerous additions, such as sheds and a garage.

The Tenant House would not be independently eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) due to loss of integrity, mainly because of the changes to the structures and its setting. However, it was historically a component of the Brick Hill Manor, and is located across the road from the main dwelling, which is recommended as eligible for the NRHP under National Register Criterion C. The tenant house, though it has lost integrity because of modifications to its appearance, contributes to the significance of this historic site.

BOUNDARY: The boundary of the property encompasses ca. three acres, including all of tax parcel 61, part 31 [(Map 6), the triangular tax parcel on which the Brick Hill Tenant House (CE-668) is located], plus a roughly 1.5 acre portion of tax parcel 61, part 30, encompassing the flat semicircular area on which the house and outbuildings of Brick Hill (CE-642) are located (see attached Bay View USGS quadrangle). The boundary of this semicircular plot of land is roughly demarcated by the 400 foot contour line, from which the land drops off considerably on the south, east and west sides. The boundary encompasses all of the buildings on both parcels.

MARYLA	ND HIST	ORICAL	TRUST	REVI	EW							
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Criteria:	A	В	_c _	D	Considerations:	A	В	c .	D .	E	F	G
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_	Review	er, Office	e of Pres	servatio	n Services			Date			-	
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## Maryland Historic Inventory Form Addendum

SURVEY NUMBER:

CE-642/CE-668

**BUILDING NAMES:** 

Brick Hill/Brick Hill Tenant House

LOCATION:

8 and 31 Brick Hill Road

Elkton, Maryland

**PREVIOUS** 

**DOCUMENTATION BY:** 

George W. Lutz III, Cecil Historical Trust, original MIHP

forms (1976)

CURRENT

DOCUMENTATION BY:

Rita M. Suffness, Architectural Historian, MD SHA,

(February/March, 2004)

**PREVIOUS DESCRIPTION**: Brick Hill appears in Cecil County's architectural history, *At the Head of the Bay* (Blumgart 1996:374). The property also has an outdated Maryland Historical Trust Inventory (MIHP) form (CE-642), as does its tenant house (CE-668) from 1976 on file at the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT).

The errors and limitations in the original description and history of the sites contained in the MIHP forms, plus the loss of outbuildings in the intervening thirty years since the forms were developed, and loss of integrity in the buildings and overall setting, due to deterioration and substantial suburban development on three sides, have necessitated this addendum to update the information about Brick Hill. All of the buildings have deteriorated.

In the original MIHP form (1976), the Brick Hill manor house was documented as five bays wide and three bays deep, with an entrance façade (that had originally been located on the south elevation) relocated to the north side during a radical rehabilitation of the house in the late nineteenth century. It was described further as having eyebrow windows, and "lowered" shutters, and frame outbuildings of Victorian date, in addition to a large bank barn. The stone building was identified as a store house for meat and vegetables. It was not possible to access the interiors of any of the buildings to investigate the degree of integrity, a situation that existed when the documentation was first developed, and which continues.

**DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:** Brick Hill, like many of the manor houses of Cecil County, was located on an elevation and exuded solidness, due to its location and setting. The Victorian-inspired residence, with massing and exterior treatment reflecting the Queen Anne Style, is a remodeling of a Georgian period dwelling, dating to circa 1751. Alterations giving the brick structure its Victorian appearance likely postdate the

Civil War. The cross gabled, shingle clad third floor, with elaborate three-part windows in the gable end, with sill moldings integral with the cornices, plus decorative eave brackets on the full-width porch, were substantial late-nineteenth-century alterations meant to update the appearance of the dwelling and exhibit the owner's prosperity and social importance. The location, size and appearance of this impressive residence gives it a commanding presence in the rural area of northeast Cecil County between Fairhill, Maryland and Lewisville, Pennsylvania.

**DESCRIPTION**: The manor house is located on the south side of Brick Hill Road, across from the small triangular plot of land created when MD 213 was relocated to the east in order to bypass the tiny crossroads, located at the intersection of MD 213 and Brick Hill Road. The Brick Hill Tenant House (CE-668) is located on this triangular property, surrounded on all sides by roadways. The manor house is located at a prominent high point in the northeastern section of Cecil County, and constitutes a visual landmark as one drives south along MD 213.

Set back a short distance from Brick Hill Road, the large dwelling, centered on a small remnant of the original farm, is set in a mature landscape of trees on a semicircular flat bench of land which falls off substantially on the south, west and east sides. Although this flat section of land encompassing the dwelling and four outbuildings is largely cleared, this is not the case just beyond the roughly oval nucleus of the site, as the land is greatly overgrown and wooded.

The Brick Hill property is increasingly surrounded by subdivision housing. Almost the entire entirety of the property, which originally comprised over 300 acres, was sold to a succession of development companies, starting as early as 1958, by the Biles family. All of the land on the east side of MD 273, both north and south of the house, is the location of modern subdivisions, as is the east side. The tax parcel for the manor house has been reduced to 7.91 acres, with only a small portion of that cleared. The tenant house, across from it on the north side of the Brick Hill Road, is located on a 1.5 acre fenced parcel. The integrity of the complex, with the manor house at its core, has deteriorated due to the loss of numerous outbuildings, the deteriorating sate of extant buildings, plus the degradation of the original setting. Only the flat areas of land on which the two dwellings, plus outbuildings, are located constitute an appropriate historical boundary.

The Brick Hill manor house consists of a main block and full-width front and rear porches. On the rear, or south side, the porch incorporates a full-height off-center bay, service wing addition, and a small frame addition, constituting a hyphen, off the southeast corner, accessing a stone outbuilding. The main block is a symmetrical five bays with center hall at the first level, an arrangement in accord with its origin in 1751 as a double

pile center hall plan. With the ca. 1880's remodeling, a third level was added. A variety of patterned wood shingles (fishscale, imbricated and butt) cover the third level of the structure, with the two lower floors constructed of brick, supported on a stone foundation. A simple set of three, four-over-four, windows are located in the forward plane of the roof cross gable, with a fanned, semicircular, wooden louver over the center one, and quarter circle louvers at the two lower corners of the outside pair. Doubled windows, located in the gable ends, are highly articulated with sill moldings integral with the cornices, and surmounted by fanlight windows. The full-width porch, with eave brackets, and the two-story semi-octagonal bay on the west elevation, also date to this period. The paneled entry door has a five-light transom with sidelights. Windows are six-over-six sash on the first and second stories and four-over-four on the third level.

In At the Head of the Bay it is noted that changes as simple as changing the roof slope and adding a kitchen many times imposed a nineteenth century appearance on an eighteenth century house. Cross gables were the features most commonly adopted from the flurry of revival styles popular in the nineteenth century. Cross gables were occasionally applied to agricultural and domestic outbuildings.

In the case of Brick Hill, the owners went beyond elementary alterations such as these and the house is one of the extreme examples of a Victorian era remodeling. In the late nineteenth century, the owners of the house (named for a brick kiln on the site in the eighteenth century on the opposite side of the road), decided to transform their eighteenth century Flemish and common bond brick dwelling into a fashionable Queen Anne style structure. They re-oriented the house, redirecting its outlook from the field (south) to the road (on the north). The chimney stacks were divided to create a more rhythmic effect (Blumgart 1996:374).

Thus, the dwelling likely originated in 1751 as a two story, side-gable brick house, oriented to the south, with Flemish bond on the south elevation, and common bond on the two end walls, and on the north elevation. Large dual chimney stacks are located inside each of the gable ends. In the radical rehabilitation that likely occurred in the late nineteenth century, the house was raised to a third level, cross-gables incorporated into the roofs of both the dwelling and the one-story full-width porch, the entrance re-located to the north side, and the exterior thoroughly Victorianized with the addition of decorative shingles, brackets, fanciful two-part windows, and elaborate bracketing. The shingles that clad the third level form a kicked out belt course at the transition to the second level.

A full-width shed-roof porch, with a cross gable centered over the sidelit and transomed doorway, accessing a stair hall, was probably added to the new entrance elevation at this

time. Turned balusters on the porch are supported on two-foot high square posts. Brackets make the transition between the porch supports and the shed roof porch roof. The fenestration of the dwelling is irregular, with a variety of window sizes. Louvered shutters are located on the second story, and paneled shutters on the first level. The decorative shingles clad the third floor exterior walls, the ends of the shed-roof, full-width porch, plus the forward planes of the two cross gables. Composition shingles have replaced the original slate roof shingles.

The structure is divided into four bays in the upper two levels of the north entrance façade, with the two bays of windows in the center spaced more closely than those in the outer bays. The windows in the upper, or third level, are four-over-four double hung sash, and there is a cluster of three, four-over-four sash in the forward plane of the cross gable of the roof. A two-story high, semi-octagonal bay is located in the west gable end, and a full width porch, partially open, is located on the south or rear elevation. The area between the third and fourth, or easternmost, window on the rear is the location of a two story square addition, probably constructed to provide indoor plumbing facilities, and built into the porch, the westernmost three bays of which are enclosed. A frame addition, clad with shingles and painted white, as is the third level (and all of the trim), was constructed off the southeast corner to provide a transition to the stone storehouse located just south of the southeast corner.

The 1976 form states that Brick Hill had numerous frame outbuildings of Victorian date, including a large bank barn, and a one story stone building directly behind the south end wall of the house, and a number of frame structures. These structures were arrayed along the edge of the semicircular bench of land, in a roughly straight line paralleling the rear of the dwelling, with the two frame buildings on the east, plus a pile of rubble and a gable-front, frame corncrib, and finally terminating with the foundation of a bank barn. A number of these original buildings are no longer extant. All that remains of the large bank barn complex, for example, is the ramp, a tile silo and portions of the stone foundation. Besides the deteriorated stone structure, whose walls have been patched, immediately off the southeast corner of the dwelling, there are three frame outbuildings, two of which likely pre-date the campaign to Victorianize the dwelling due to their heavy timber construction. Both were Victorianized when the roofs were altered with cross gables on the entrance elevations, and vertical wood cladding added to constitute a fanciful appearance. They are in very poor condition.

Both of the frame structures are banked slightly so that the whitewashed, stone foundations on the rear, or south sides, are higher than that on the front. With dirt floors, large hewn sills separate the interior spaces. Both of these small outbuildings are clad with vertical boards, with a doorway centered on the north façades between two windows and below cross gables with a single pointed window. Both have heavy timber

foundations, mortised and tenoned, with a cladding of vertical boards on the exteriors, which are in turn overlaid with shorter boards in the upper level of the gable ends and across the front of the buildings, terminating immediately below the roof line. Each of the shorter boards terminate with pierced roundels, constituting a cornice treatment.

The roof of the frame outbuilding on the far east is clad with composition shingles, and a small peeper cage is located off the southeast corner, along with a very low doorway. The other small fame outbuilding, the near twin of the one just described on the east, may have been a stable, and retains the original standing seam metal roof. It also has a dirt floor and large hewn sills, but has been subdivided into four spaces: an aisle paralleling the north façade, with the area behind it subdivided into three square spaces by low, internal board walls. A stairway accessing the upper level is located on the west wall. There is evidence of an addition having been originally located on the outside of the west wall, but it is no longer extant. A gable-front small corncrib is located between the ruins of the machine garage and the collapsed barn.

The Tenant House (CE-668) is a side-gable, four bay wide, two-story, ell-shaped structure, oriented to the south, and located on the north side of Brick Hill Road. This had been the location of a toll house in the mid 1800's. It is clad with vinyl siding, supported on the stone foundation, and has a standing seam metal roof. The fenestration is highly irregular, with six-over-six sash predominating. A shed-roofed ell, built into the west end of the north elevation, forms a continuous line with the plane of the west gable-end elevation. The dwelling originally had two entrances on the south, or entrance façade, but the westernmost one has been eliminated. The existing entrance, with a replacement door, is sheltered by an open, shed roof porch, carried on lathe turned posts. A small board and batten barn, located directly behind the house, has had numerous additions, such as sheds and a garage.

HISTORY: Brick Hill House was likely built circa 1751 in the Georgian style. Levi Hall, a local farmer, who owned the property from 1834 until 1873, sold it to John Hall, who owned it until 1884. It was subsequently owned by the Biles family from 1884 until the 1950's, when they begin to subdivide and sell the property to developers. The property is shown as the residence of Levi Hall in 1863 (Martenet 1858; Chapman Publishing Company 1897). Levi Hall purchased it from Philadelphian William Webb in 1834, at which point it was known as "Society" and part of "Confusion," as well as Brick Hill. Stephen Beans of Cecil County sold the 318 acre property to Webb in 1823 for \$6,500. Just seven years earlier "Brick Hill Plantation", part of "Society" had been the subject of a dispute between Jonathan Albertson and Stephen Beans (Chancery Papers #595), with the latter winning the case. The property had been described as a "large,

valuable plantation". Albertson had purchased the property from a John Smith, but no previous land transactions to that effect could be located. Although none of the road maps from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries in *Cecil County Commissioners Records* actually show a building at the location of Brick Hill Farm, the location of a community of that name is referenced (*Public Roads of Cecil County*, Part 3, Folios 311 and 322). Brick Hill was also not referenced or shown as a roadside feature of MD 213 when it was briefly incorporated as the Elkton, Andorra and Lewisville Plank Road, in the early 1860's (Garrett, 1991:31).

In At the Head of the Bay David Mackey is cited as an owner at one point. The Mackeys owned properties (and still do) in Lewisville just north of Brick Hill, but their association with Brick Hill could not be substantiated. Neither could that of John Othason, who was shown as the resident/owner in 1877 (Lake, Griffing & Stevenson 1877).

It is likely that John R. Hall had the Victorian-era changes made to the dwelling, including the building of the third floor, division of the corbelled brick chimneys, and Victorianizing of at least two of the period, hewn-timber outbuildings. These alterations were chosen to update the residence with a more contemporary appearance that was befitting a successful farmer. He may have encountered financial difficulties in making these changes, because the property was seized by the Citizens National Bank of Middletown, Delaware, in 1884. As reported in the August 9, 1884 *Cecil Whig*, it was sold at a public sale to the Biles family for \$14,000.

The historical sparseness of the general environs of Brick Hill, prior to the dense subdivision housing that has been built in the last thirty years, reflected the development pattern that characterized the far northeastern corner of Cecil County generally. While all types of settlements were springing up throughout the southern part of Cecil County in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, the northern section remained a wilderness populated for the most part by hunters and traders until the 1680's. Population was scant well into the eighteenth century. Although tobacco cultivation predominated in the southern parts of the county, in the northern part a grain-oriented community had been firmly established by the Quakers in the first quarter of the eighteenth century.

The rise in grain cultivation brought about significant changes in the landscape with the emergence of large field cultivation, reflected in the increased numbers of bank barns and attendant milling industries that were built. Changes in the labor force were also wrought, as grain farming was only labor intensive during the harvest season. The farmers would hire only during harvest, leading to a drop in the slave population. Tenancy in Cecil County, as elsewhere around the Chesapeake, rose with the increasing predominance of wheat culture. Many planters found they could do as well with crops

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raised by tenants and paid as rent as with crops raised by their own servants. Accrued profits from commercial tobacco and grain agriculture of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries allowed a small fraction of planters, such as John Hall, to finance dwellings with much more complexity and pretentiousness than those of their ancestors or their contemporaries, signaling their elevated status in Chesapeake society.

SIGNIFICANCE: The Brick Hill House, plus its tenant house, is recommended eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under National Register Criterion C. The residence is an impressive Victorian dwelling that likely dates its remodeling to the late nineteenth century. Local sources suggest that the structure originated as an earlier Georgian-period residence, to which alterations were likely made during the ownership of John Hall. Hall owned the property from 1873 to 1884, likely updating its appearance with a more contemporary Victorian appearance, with Queen Anne stylistic flourishes, befitting his status as a well-to-do farmer in the area. Other residences of the same construction period exist in northeastern Cecil County, but the Brick Hill House's Victorian character makes it stand out within the area as one of the more impressive and prominent residences. It is also adjacent to the section of MD 213, which, during a brief period just before the outbreak of the Civil War, was incorporated and re-built as the Elkton, Andorra and Lewisville Plank Road. The tenant house, though it has lost integrity because of modifications to its appearance, contributes to the significance of this historic site.

BOUNDARY: The boundary of the property encompasses ca. three acres, including all of tax parcel 61, part 31 [(Map 6), the triangular tax parcel on which the Brick Hill Tenant House (CE-668) is located], plus a roughly 1.5 acre portion of tax parcel 61, part 30, encompassing the flat semicircular area on which the house and outbuildings of Brick Hill (CE-642) are located (see attached *Bay View* USGS quadrangle). The boundary of this semicircular plot of land is demarcated by the 400 foot contour line, from which the land drops off considerably on the south, east and west sides.

### **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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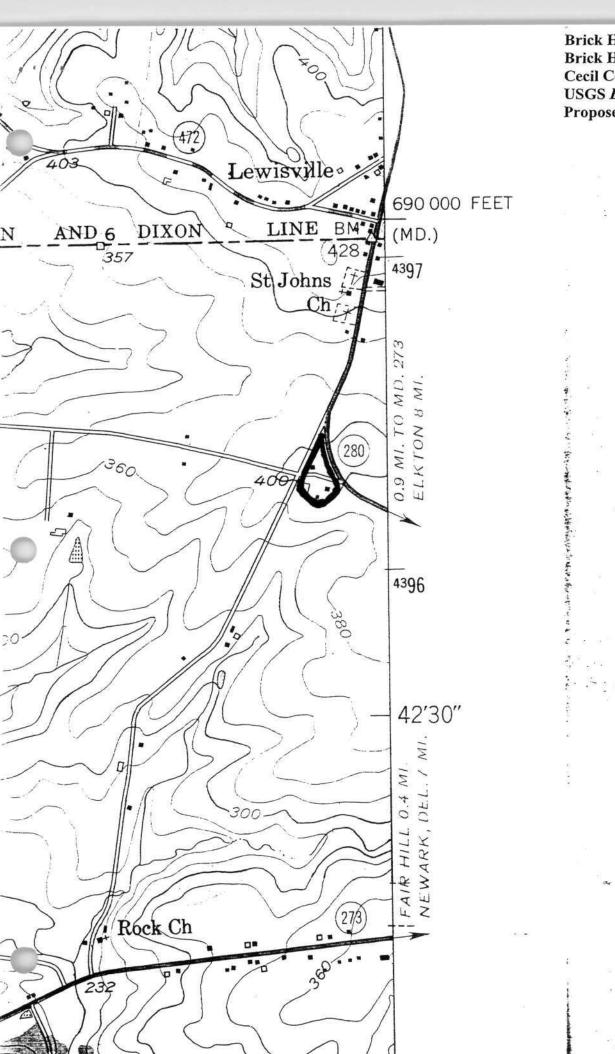
Lake, Griffing & Stevenson

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Martenet, Simon

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PREPARED BY: Rita M. Suffness, Architectural Historian, MD SHA, February/March 2004



Brick Hill (CE-642) and Brick Hill Tenant House (CE-668) Cecil County, MD USGS Bay View Quadrangle Proposed Historic Boundary

CE-642/CE-668 BAY VII Brick Hill/Brick Hill Tenant House MARYLI Cecil County, MD
7.5 MINUTE USGS Bay View Quadrangle Location 1423| 1 110 000 FEET (MD.) 4400 Hickory Hill . NE LONDON Peacedale 409 4399 Union 4398 ewisville 690 000 FEET LINE BM (MD.) AND 6 DIXON MASON MARYLAND St Johns Blake Moores Chapel 4396 42'30" FAIR HILL O 4 MI. NEWARK, DEL. 7 MI. Rock Ch



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CE 642 BRICKHIL RITA SUFFNESS, MDSHA February 2004 Pebruary 2004 Frame Outbuildings

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CE 642 BRICK HELL RITA SUFFNESS, MOSHA resallity February 2004 Overgroundsoner b (NE comen) + collagred out building.

# MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST CE 642



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AND/OR COMMON					
LOCATION					
STREET & NUMBER					
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STATE	•		COUNTY		
Maryland			Cecil		
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\_\_EXCELLENT

CONDITION

\_\_DETERIORATED

\_RUINS X\_G00D \_\_UNEXPOSED \_FAIR

CHECK ONE

XALTERED

\_UNALTERED

**CHECK ONE** 

XORIGINAL SITE

\_\_MOVED DATE

#### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Brick Hill is a large brick dwelling which overlooks the upper end of the Little Elk Valley. It is reputed to have been built in 1751. The house is five bays long by three wide and three stories in height. The current facade was originally the rear of the house. The original facade faces south and it has a molded watertable and the Bricks are laid in flemish bond. The other walls are laid in common bond. appears that the house was only two stories in height when built with an added frame story in the early nineteenth century. The frame addition has eyebrow windows with 3/3 sash. The house has a gable roof with twin inside end chimneys in each gable wall. In the center bay of the roof is a peaked dormer. The roof is covered with slate shingles and has a box cornice. Across the current facade is a one story porch with a pediment in the center bay of the porch roof. This porch is supported by turned wooden posts. The front entrance is in the center bay with a transom and sidelights. The window sash is 6/6 and the windows have lowered shutters on the second floor and paneled on the first. interior was not open for investigation.

Brick Hill has numerous frame outbuildings of Victorian date with a very huge bank barn. Directly behind the house is a one story stone building which served as a storehouse for meat and vegetables.

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#### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Brick Hill is a notable structure because it is the oldest brick home in this section of Cecil County. In fact it is the only 18th century brick home in this area. The farm has been very active and evidently very prosperous. The home gets its name from a brick kiln that is reported to have been in operation in the mid-1700's. The owners of Brick Hill have been fairly wealthy. The most recent ones had interests in hotels and other enterprizes than farming.

# MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

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The Shaw House, 21 State Circle

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

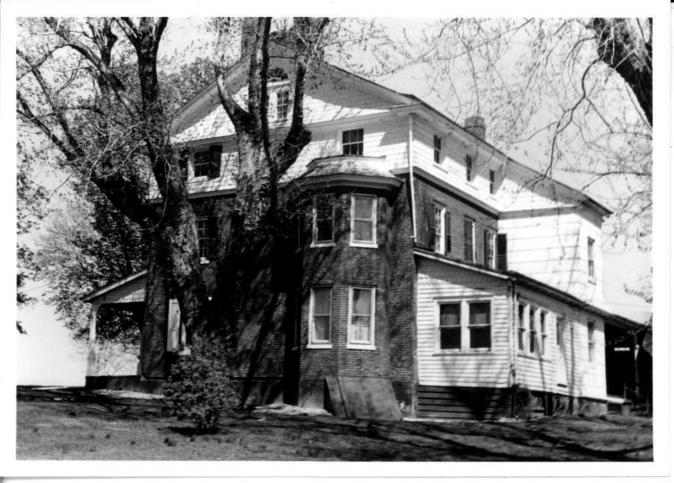
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Brick Hill
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